



The Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning

October 2024



W.g. Grinders staff members Emma and Wendy are happy to welcome you to Bergamo!

The Bergamo Break

Pause, pray, and stay connected with the latest news at Bergamo

Bergamo Upgrades its Dining Services!

While guests come to Bergamo seeking spiritual renewal, we believe nourishing the body is also an important part of a fulfilling (and filling) retreat experience. Therefore, through our partnership with W.g. Grinders, we at Bergamo are excited to announce our upgraded dining services!

The Bergamo staff and W.g. Grinders have listened to feedback and carefully planned how to best serve our guests. The new kitchen manager, Tabitha Bastanipour, has been instrumental in overseeing improvements since she arrived in July (learn more about Tabitha below!).



The dining staff now purchases more food products from **local, sustainable sources**. Bergamo receives seasonal vegetables from 80 Acres Farm, an organization in Hamilton, OH that operates with zero pesticides, 100% renewable energy, and 95% less water than a traditional farm. Bergamo also receives some of its meat from local farms and all of its dairy products from Ohio.

"The food has been **amazing**! I have been visiting Bergamo for 13 years, and the food is the best it has ever been."

-Kevin Wood, Director of Marianist LIFE, July 2024



The dining staff also works hard to accommodate all dietary restrictions and boasts an expanded and creative menu. In the last few months, Grinders has served two groups that requested entirely **vegetarian meals** (and featured smoothies - yum!). Also, the dining room now includes an expanded salad bar and a new coffee machine.

The results have been noticed immediately. In the months since implementing the changes, the amount of surveyed guests who responded that the food was "good" or "excellent" increased by 27%. Kevin Wood, the director of the Marianist LIFE program, said, "The food has been amazing! I have been visiting Bergamo for 13 years, and the food is the best it has ever been." Survey respondents have also praised the **upgraded salad bar**, variety of meals, and the **friendly staff**.

But you do not have to take their word for it. Try our new dining services during your next visit to Bergamo. We believe that when you eat better, you retreat better!

Guest satisfaction with
Bergamo dining has risen

27% ↑

Faces of Bergamo: Meet Tabitha, our new Kitchen Manager!

Please tell us about yourself. *I am the mother of two boys, a freshman at Carroll High School and a 3rd grader at Incarnation. I love to spend time with them and support them at their football and wrestling matches. I also enjoy reading, hiking, and working out.*

What is your professional background? *I worked in a fine dining restaurant in Chicago for several years and have 22 years of experience in the food service industry. I have served as a front-of-the-house manager, bartender, and hostess, and I have catered weddings. I have done a little bit of everything!*

How long have you worked at Bergamo? *3 months!*

What have you enjoyed about working at Bergamo? *I*



enjoy the people I work with and my interactions with guests. I love learning new things, and I learn something new from each group.

How do you hope to serve guests at Bergamo? *I hope to add value to guests' experience of Bergamo. I want guests to leave feeling refreshed and energized!*



“The food must be good and wholesome, the bread of good quality.”

-Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

October Arrivals

Purcell Marian High School
Marianist Encounters Retreat
Mt. Notre Dame High School
Badin High School
Soul Collage
Enneagram
Christ the King
L'Esperance Community
Spinning Road Baptist Church
Ignatian Spirituality Project
Seton High School
Journal of Curriculum Theorizing
Moeller High School
Carroll High School
Visitation State Community
Villa Madonna High School
Seton Teaching Fellows

Please pray for our groups.



**Plan Your
Organization's
Christmas Party at
Bergamo!**

Planning your parish, school, or company Christmas gathering? Bergamo's cozy facilities and upgraded dining services would be a perfect fit! While Bergamo is busy much of the year, **dates are still open in December.** While the weather outside might be frightful, our Fireplace Lounge is so delightful! See below for contact information.





September Highlights

September marked the start of our busiest season at Bergamo! Junior retreats and Senior Kairos retreats provided opportunities for high school students to renew their faith lives and grow deeper in their relationships with Christ and with their classmates. Eight high school groups held retreats at Bergamo in September!

Adult groups also frequented Bergamo on weekends. Early in the month, many took advantage of attending "Mary at the Foot of the Cross...." a virtual retreat that Bergamo sponsored, along with several other organizations. Another group utilizing our facility this month was Retrouvaille, a Catholic Marriage Program that offers support and care to married couples. And winding down at the end of the month, we were blessed to be able to host many of our Marianist brothers and priests here for their Director's meetings.

October 11 is the Feast of **Pope St. John XXIII**, the Patron Saint of the Bergamo Center!

"Prayer is the raising of the mind to God. We must always remember this. The actual words matter less."



Photo source: Wikimedia Commons

3 Minute Retreat

Pause. Breathe deeply. Slowly read the following passage three times.

*Do not fear: I am with you;
do not be anxious: I am your God.
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.
(Isaiah 41:10)*

Pray the following prayer or one of your own. *Lord, please take my fear and let me focus on your presence.
Amen.*

Connect with Us

Spend the day with Bergamo! Attend an upcoming Day of Rest and Healing:
October 16, November 25, December 9

Find more information on our website: www.bergamocenter.org (under "Adult Programs")

Interested in booking a group? Contact us at (937) 426-2363 or info@bergamocenter.org

Check out photos from your group's visit to Bergamo and other updates on our Facebook page!



Join Our Cause

Please consider supporting Bergamo's mission of providing excellent programming and facilities.

Donate

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